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EE
EQMA-8763

SECURITY INFORMATION

Chief of Base, Berlin

Chief of Base, Munich

NOV 18 1953
INFO: EE
COM

Operational/CART

Deutscher Buchring

References - A. BRLM 1175, 12 October 1953
B. BRLM 1256, 19 October 1953
C. BRLM 1365, 29 October 1953
D. EQBA 8751, 19 October 1953

1. Forwarded herewith as Attachment "A" is CASTONE 4's report on the Deutscher Buchring, which was investigated per reference requests.

2. The LfV was queried but had no information on this firm. There were no traces at MOB or CIC Region IV on the persons with Munich backgrounds mentioned in EQBA 8751.

3. Also forwarded as Attachment "B" (for BOB only) is a copy of the LESERING ILLUSTRIERTE, which is the official advertisement booklet for the Deutscher Buchring. Page 2 shows the conditions for membership.

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Enclosures:

- A. CASTONE 4's Report
- B. Copy of Booklet

18 November 1953

Distribution:

- 2 - BOB w/1 encl. A & B
- 3 - COM w/2 encl. A
- 3 - EE w/1 encl. A
- 2 - MOB w/1 encl. A

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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18 Nov 53

Deutscher Buchring

Source : CASTONE 4

Date : 5 November 1953

1. The Deutscher Buchring, G.m.b.H., formerly located at Sonnenstrasse 12, Munich, is now at Fritz Bernastrasse 2, Munich/Pasing. Until April 1953, the Deutscher Buchring operated as the private firm "Deutscher Buchring, ERNST & Co.," a continuation of the firm ERNST & Co. Rudolf ERNST, merchant, Munich 2, Bayerhofstrasse 20/II and Frau Wilhelmine WEBER nee WIALHAMMER, merchant, Munich 9, Reichenbachstrasse 21/III were the owners of the firm.

2. On 16 April 1953 ERNST and Frau WEBER founded the corporation Deutscher Buchring at the office of the Notary Public (Dr.) Hans SCHILLERER, Munich, Neubauerstrasse 16/III. (Dr.) Gerhard BOHNENBERGER, publisher, Munich/Allach, Trumppstrasse 7, was installed as Director of the Deutscher Buchring, G.m.b.H. This arrangement made it definite that the shares of the Company would be in Dr. BOHNENBERGER's control. This is the explanation which BOHNENBERGER made to the Industrie und Handelskammer, Munich.

3. The undertaking encompasses: book publishing, guide books, export and retail book sales, i.e., especially those activities carried out under the former private firm known as Deutscher Buchring, ERNST & Co.

4. Among other things the contract states that: in the event that there is more than one director of the organization, two of these together or one together with an agent with power of attorney have right of representation. In the event of liquidation of the corporation, any one single director has the right of sole representation and authority.

5. Each of the associates in the corporation, i.e., ERNST and WEBER, hold original shares in the amount of DM 10,000 (a total of DM 20,000). The original company shares were arranged in such a way that the associates were able to carry over the assets and liabilities of the private firm ERNST & Co. when the Deutscher Buchring, G.m.b.H., was formed.

6. Assets of the firm ERNST & Co. on 1 April 1953:

Business Equipment	11,065.65 DM
Copyright	1.00
Stock on Hand	19,318.10
Outstanding claims	43,289.48
Bank Balance	641.93
Cash on Hand	284.32
TOTAL	74,600.48 DM

ENCLOSURE

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7. Liabilities of the firm ERNST & Co. on 1 April 1953:

Original Capital	20,000.00 DM
Savings Account	17,118.45
Payments on Account	7,659.23
Debts	23,289.60
TOTAL	74,600.48 DM

8. The following is from a report of the Industrie und Handelskammer, Munich, dated 11 May 1953, signed by Dr. WOLFERSTAETTER, and addressed to the Lower Court of Munich, Handelsregister, Prielmayerstrasse:

"The turnover of the firm ERNST & Co. in 1952 amounted to DM 216,000. In March 1953, i.e., shortly before the formation of the firm Deutscher Buchring, the turnover was DM 34,000. The firm engaged approximately twenty-five employees. At this time there were approximately 20,000 members who had taken out subscriptions. By means of a loan of DM 250,000 obtained in April or May, about 30,000 more members were to be gained. Another 30,000 subscriptions were to be allotted through the Lesering des Bertelmannbuch (sic). These subscribers are scattered all over Germany. Through these means the Deutscher Buchring hopes to reach a membership of 80,000."

The strength of the membership to date has not yet been made known.

9. CASTONE 4 states that he could possibly determine the source of the loan of DM 250,000 in a secure manner.

10. ERNST possesses a German Passport No. A1487888, issued on 28 January 1953 by the Stadtrat, Landeshauptstadt, Munich. Frau WEBER possesses a German Kennkarte No. B VI 15362, issued in 1946 by the Polizeipraesidium, Munich.

11. CASTONE 4 received most of this information from a ~~man~~ LUTTNER, Amtsgericht (Handelsregister section), Munich, who also allowed him access to the register. LUTTNER knows neither CASTONE 4's name nor occupation. Another source of information was a girl, name unknown, who is employed in the Industrie und Handelskammer, Munich, Maximilianstrasse 7.

12. Discreet surveillance of the Deutscher Buchring premises on 10 November 1953 disclosed that the following vehicles parked there:

AB 52 8246 - Volkswagen delivery truck	AB 53 8182-Volkswagen sedan
B 47 3572 - Opel Olympia sedan	AB 53 6096-Volkswagen sedan
AB 53 8187 - Volkswagen delivery truck	AB 53 5322-Volkswagen sedan

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